

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welles, II et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,353) (hereinafter "Welles").

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welles in view of Briskman (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,471) (hereinafter "Briskman").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 5-7 are presented, to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application's specification. Claims 2-4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5-7 are currently pending for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welles. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welles in view of Briskman. Claims 2-4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Also, claim 1 has been amended to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application's specification. To the extent that these rejections might be deemed to apply to claim 1 as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1, for example, to recite a receiver combination that includes first and second antennas for receiving first and second broadcast

wave signals respectively carrying thereon first and second information signals. The receiver of claim 1 also includes first and second signal amplifiers for respectively amplifying the broadcast wave signals that have been respectively received by said first and second antennas, said second signal amplifier having a lower noise figure than said first signal amplifier. Also included in the combination of claim 1 is a signal superposing part for superposing the amplified signals that have been amplified by said signal amplifiers to produce an output signal and a demodulating/reproducing part for demodulating the output signal from said signal superposing part and for reproducing the first and second information signals included in said output signal. In addition, the combination of independent claim 1 goes on to include a control part for detecting deterioration in qualities of the respective ones of the reproduced first and second information signals and for performing a final control operation to disable said first amplifier when it is determined that both of said first and second information signals are deteriorated in their qualities.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-described combination of features allows the receiver of embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application to be capable of maintaining proper reception of a broadcast wave signal even under a condition in which both of the information signals extracted from the broadcast wave signal, and having passed through the first and second antennae, are deteriorated in their qualities by disabling only the first signal amplifier.

Applicant notes that it is to be understood that the above-described arrangement according to embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application is supported, for example, by steps S11-S14 in the flowchart of Fig. 2 of the instant application.

On the other hand, Applicant respectfully submits that Welles discloses a digital television which can optimize its reception condition by selecting among input signals from multiple antennas for mitigation of multipath. See col. 1, lines 25-29 of Welles.

Applicant respectfully submits that the digital television of Welles includes first and second combiners 104 and 105 for combining signals having passed through a plurality of antennas 101 through 103. The output signals of the combiners are supplied to the ATSC and NTSC tuners 108 and 109 through multiplexers 106 and 107. Output signals from the tuners 108 and 109 are evaluated by a signal evaluation module 111. A processor 110 causes the reconfiguration for the combiners 104 and 105 so as to locate a superior signal, as described at col. 5, lines 15-26 of Welles.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Welles does not teach, or even suggest, to any extent, how to treat the combination of the reception signal in the combiners 104 and 105 in a situation in which all of the broadcast wave signals from the respective antennas are deteriorated.

On the other hand, the receiver described in the combination of newly-amended independent claim 1 of the instant application is particularly arranged so that it can continue its reception of either one of the broadcast wave signals by disabling a signal amplifier having a worse noise figure while keeping active another signal amplifier having a better noise figure even when it is determined that both of the broadcast wave signals are deteriorated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that newly-amended independent claim 1 describes a combination of features that differs in many respects from the disclosure of Welles.

In addition, because such arrangements are neither shown nor suggested in Welles, Applicant respectfully submits that the receiver combination described in newly-amended independent claim 1 would not be rendered obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the relevant art, even in light of the disclosure of Welles.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because Welles does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. MPEP § 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)."

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully asserts that the newly-added dependent claims are allowable at least because of their dependence from newly-amended independent claim 1, and the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

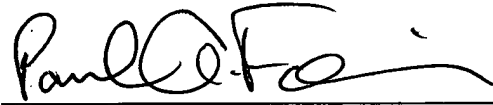
This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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